Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— Sir, I do not think that either the Government or the non-official Members who opposed this proposition before the House has made out a case for the retention of two posts of the Prosecuting Inspectors. If I understood the Government Member aright he has admitted there is no work for two persons. He had further admitted that the work could be managed judging from the figures by one officer alone. Then the argument advanced by the Hon'ble Member was that in the interest of efficiency and for the matter of speedy disposal of cases two persons would be necessary and that argument was developed by another Hon'ble Member on this side that for speedy disposal a third would be more convenient and a fourth would add to it. The question is whether one could manage the work or whether there will be greater convenience if three or four are appointed. The question as stated in the resolution is that whether one man would be able to cope with the work. The Government has admitted that they have been managing with one man for the last two years. I do not know what stands in the way of the Government in scraping one of the posts of these Prosecuting Inspectors. Members on the non-official side referred to various points, such as inconvenience to the public, advantages to Vakils and so many other things, which I do not think merit very serious consideration. Neither has the Government—of course in its own characteristic way—been able to decide this question in the course of the last two years. However even in the face of admitted facts I will wait and see whether before the next Council meets, Government will be in a position to come to a definite and reasonable conclusion, whether it be for the reasons advanced by the Hon'ble Member for Palluruthi or whether it be in the interests of the State. I will wait requesting permission to withdraw the motion for the time being.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—I beg to oppose the motion for withdrawing. We want the sense of the House to be taken.

Question put:—*whether the member has leave to withdraw the resolution.*

Motion carried.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—A poll, Sir.

The House divided—Ayes 27, Noes 2 and Neturals 3.

Ayes.	Noes.
1. Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.	1. Dr. A. R. Menon.
2. Mr. K. Ayyappan.	2. Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.
3. Mr. M. P. Cherian.	
4. Mr. George Chakyamuri.	
5. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.	
6. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.	
7. Mr. Joseph Pettah.	**Neutrals.**
8. Mr. T. K. Nayar.	1. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.
9. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.	2. Mr. C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri.
10. Mr. C. J. Mathew.	3. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri
11. Mr. V. K. Aravindhaksha Menon	

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12. Mr. I. N. Menon.
13. Mr. T. Narayana Menon.
14. Mr. P. Neelakanta Menon.
15. Mr. Paul Mampilli.
16. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.
17. Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.
18. Rama Varmha Tampuran.
19. Mr. M. K. Raman.
20. Mr. P. Raman Menon.
21. Mr. A. Sankara Menon.
22. Dr. K. Sankara Menon.
23. Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.
24. Mrs. Swariz.
25. Mr. Thomas Manjuran.
26. Mr. K. P. Vallon.
27. Mr. P. C. Varkkey.

Resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and ressembled at 3 p. m. with Mr. P. Krishna Menon in the Chair.

President.—Hon'ble Members, I find there is a concensus of opinion expressed to me that the sitting of the Council may be brought to a close at half-past three. If Hon'ble Members are all of the same opinion, of course the necessary duty lies upon them to select such of the resolutions as they give importance and cut short the speches as far as possible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— We have got enough and more work, Sir.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.— There are very useful resolutions coming up, Sir.

President.—Of course I do not restrict the liberty. I leave it all to you.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—It will be enough Sir, if you will limit the time of the speeches.

President.—Alright. I will fix the time for the mover, 5 minutes and the others, 3 minutes.

Resolution No. 4.
Appointment of a board for Writing Text Books.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— Sir, I move the following resolution:—

"*This Council recommends to the Government to appoint a board consisting of scholars of established reputation to write the text books required for the use of the schools in the State, to purchase their copy-rights and print and publish the same at Government cost*".

Sir, the question of text books is one of the vexed questions that this Council had to deal with. The House is aware that the selection and prescription of books are now done by the Text

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Book Committee and the Board of Studies. For some reason or other there had been perennial complaints against the working of these bodies. There was not a single session of this Council in which some complaint or other is not heard about this subject. As a result of the pressure brought upon this Government, a Committee was appointed and the Government framed new rules based on the recommendations of that Committee. The reorganised Text Book Committee and the Board of Studies functioned for the last three or four years. What is the result? There is no improvement so far as the public is concerned. We hear of the same old story of favouritism and jobbery in the matter of selection of books although the authors and publishers were not the same as before. In view of the keen competition that exists between the publishers in their race to get into the good graces of the members of the Text Book Committee and the Board of Studies and the consequent disappointment, there is some room for exaggeration and imaginary grievance. But I am not prepared to admit that there is nothing in this especially so when we find that one of them is practically getting the monopoly of it.

The S. K. Committee consisting of some eminent educationists has approved of the principle contained in my resolution. At page 27, para 83 they say—"While discussing the subject of Vernacular studies we would very much like Government undertaking a reform in the matter of editing and publishing vernacular text books for the elementary course. In suggesting this course of action, we are influenced by several considerations and have not ignored the probable objections that might be raised against such a procedure.

In the first place we note that the present text books intended for the Primary children are sadly lacking in that one element of useful variety of lessons which are as much, if not more, wanted in school tests in the lower classes, as in home life. Lessons containing useful information on general subjects of rural interest and local environment will be better taught and understood by children of those particular localities; hence if one common text book containing a variety of lessons is available, there will be wide scope for selection to suit particular localities. As there are advantages in the latitude given for choice, we consider that Government would be justified in adopting, such measures as would ensure the possibilities of having a set of books satisfying the above needs. Besides having books of good quality, we have been satisfied that it would be possible to sell the books much cheaper—an important measure of relief and satisfaction from the guardian's point of view and to have their get up and printing done in the most satisfactory manner

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on good paper. Not that we mean that the present publications are bad, but we think a better type of books costing less can be made available for children if Government undertake this task.

The only possible objection which might be raised against the suggestion is that it attempts to kill or under-rate the importance of private enterprise. The objection seems to us to have no great force and therefore does not appear to deserve serious notice."

Thus the Committee gives the reasons in brief for the adoption of this reform by the Government. Of course they deal here only of text books required for the Primary classes. But I would submit that the same reasons apply to the books for the Lower Secondary and High School classes. But if for any reason the Government finds that there is some difficulty in getting books written on any subject or if there are better standard text books of undisputed reputation available in the market for reasonable prices, they can with advantage adopt them. If the Government accepts my resolution and puts it into practice, it will not be put to any extra expenditure. On the other hand it may stand to gain some amount, if they care to make it. The students will get better books at cheaper prices. There is less chance of periodical changes of books entailing unnecessary and heavy expenditure on the part of parents and greater chance of reducing the number of books, which each child has to buy. Above all this House will have to hear no more of the complaints against the working of the Board of Studies.

With these few words I commend the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Sir, I support it.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, This is a subject which has been before the Government, I think from 1104. A Committee of two members of this House was appointed then to suggest improvements with regard to the text book Committee. This is the reference that was made to the then Director of Public Instruction.

"The present mode of selection, that is in 1104, of text-books from private presses and publishers gives rise to unhappy situations, while the proper remedy would seem to be the publication of books by the Government itself wherever possible. The Travancore Governmentare already doing it. There will be no objection here also. The Director is requested to consider and offer his views in the matter. The reference may be treated as urgent."

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—When was that?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—This order is dated 20th March 1929. A report was called for from the Senior Inspector and as there

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was already this Committee, the matter was referred to them also.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Which Committee?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The Committee of the members appointed by this House to revise the constitution, etc. of the Text-book Committee and the Board of Studies. I find that my predecessor-in-office submitted a report to the Government with reference to this question. "I have the honour to state that the special committee is not in favour of the proposal for the publication of text books by Government, and as pointed out by the Senior Inspector, would require a more elaborate machinery" and thus the scheme was allowed to wait. Subsequently when the office of the Superintendent of Vernacular Education was created I suggested to the Superintendent that it will be much cheaper to undertake the publication of text-books themselves. Unfortunately that officer had a variety of miscellaneous duties to do, as Secretary to the Vernacular Education Committee; he had charge of the fishery schools and he had to inspect the Sanskrit and Malayalam education in all the High and Lower Secondary Schools. Therefore he could not find time and recently he submitted a scheme for the work being undertaken by the Government. But there are certain defects in the scheme submitted by him. Just to give you one such, he suggested to buy a hand-press, when there is already the Government Press, for the purpose of printing text-books. Evidently that would be quite unnecessary. So Government have now asked me to look into the scheme and find out whether it is not possible to carry out the purposes of this resolution without entailing much expense. As far as I can see the profits which now go to the publishers can certainly be made a gain to the students, in the way of reduction of prices. Except for machinery, there is absolutely no objection. I got this only during this Council Session. I have asked the Superintendent of Vernacular Education before he is disbanded to come and meet me to discuss this matter and arrive at some definite figures.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—May I know, Sir, whether the Vernacular Education Committee has made any suggestion?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have not as yet read the report.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ഗവർമ്മെൻറ പ്ര
സിദ്ധം ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാനും യോജി
ക്കുന്നു. ആ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ എഴുതുവാൻ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിയമി
ക്കുക എന്നുള്ള കാര്യം ഇവിടെ ഇപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടതോളം
അത്ര എളുപ്പമായ സംഗതിയാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. പുസ്തക
ങ്ങൾ എഴുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൻെറ എല്ലാ വശങ്ങളേയുംപറ്റി വിദ

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ശ്രമമാരും മറും വളരെ ആലോചിക്കുമെന്നെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത മാതിരിയാണ് ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് കാണുന്നതു്. നമ്മുടെ സ്കൂളുകൾക്കാവശ്യമായ പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ എഴുതുന്നതിനു തക്ക യോഗ്യതയുള്ള ആളുകളെ നിയമിയ്ക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവർക്കു വലിയ പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കണം. അതിലേക്കു ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതിനുതന്നെ വലിയ വിഷമം വരും. ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കുകളുടെ കയ്യെഴുത്തുപ്രതികൾ വാങ്ങിനല്ലതു എടുത്തു് അതിന്റെ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണം ഗവർമ്മെന്റു നടത്തുന്നതായിരിക്കും തല്ക്കാലം നന്നായിരിക്കുക എന്നു തോന്നുന്നു.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Sir, I also beg to support this motion. I think after all it cannot be very difficult to find out proper text-books, if we follow the line of procedure recommended by the Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas, which I think is also the method contemplated by the Hon'ble the mover himself. Some of the members of the Board may be themselves competent to write books. This is done in certain other places as well. Prizes may be offered for the best books written by literary men and the manuscripts may be subjected to the scrutiny of a competent board and the best books chosen. The prizes itself would be the price of the copyright. The publication may be made by the Government. I do not mean to say that if this method is adopted, all the complaints will disappear. Any scheme adopted by the Government will have its own defects. I am not so optimistic as the Hon'ble mover to think that all the complaints about text-books and the Board of Studies would disappear if this method is adopted. I will not be so optimistic. I am sure even if this procedure is adopted there will be many complaints. But still on the whole perhaps this will be a better method. After all the evils of the present system are due to the fact that there is commercial rivalry between competing publishers. The frequent change of text-books, the high prices, the bad quality, well, all these in a way or other could be traced to the central fact that there is this commercial rivalry between competing publishers and they try to influence people in authority, either legitimately or even illegitimately occasionally. Some of these features might be over-come if the methods suggested now is adopted by the Government. I will not be so optimistic to think that all the complaints will disappear. On the whole I think that this method proposed by the mover, seems to be a better one than what was being done hitherto. I therefore support the resolution.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I need not say more on the subject. The resolution if read carefully will show that I

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